

HER SMILE

by Andrew “Change” Huang

she hides her fervent smile
behind her poppy, decal notebook
full of scribbled daydreams—
 scenarios of serendipity
 playing perfectly in her head
 right after you say hello
 to her in the hallway.

the incantation of her name
draws her out from collections
of summer happenstances—
 unopened and unsent—
 to remind her of the burnt
 scarlet sky, just before
 the brief warm evening
 transitions into a somber
 soggy autumn.

in the midst of the conversation
she reveals a cluster of star-dust.
the colliding summer constellations—
 Aquila, Cygnus, and Lyra—
 send her arching smile
 into a cloud cosmic spiral;
 she stumbles mid-sentence,
 but is caught by your laughter.

or this is just your imagination.

behind her iris-full smile,
she hides an abandonment—
a leafy bookmark to a tattered page.
 just like a lucid dream
 taunting you with her smile,
 she vanishes;
 you wake up—
 you may never know.